

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 T-03

OMB-01 RSR-01 /079 W

----- 069704

R 160722 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0548

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1528

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, TH, US

SUBJ: LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE ON WHITLAM NEWSWEEK

INTERVIEW

1. WITH EXCEPTION FEW STORIES ESSENTIALLY REPEATING STATEMENTS MADE IN BANGKOK BY THAI OFFICIALS ABOUT WHITLAM'S INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE OF SUBJECT. EVEN WHITLAM'S RESPONSE DURING QUESTION TIME ON THI SUBJECT WAS NOT PICKED UP BY MAJOR NEWSPAPERS.

2. PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION POSED BY OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN MARCH 13 ASKED WHITLAM TO EXPLAIN WHY HE HAD MADE STATEMENT ABOUT U. S. FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND WHICH HAD EMBARRASSED AUSTRALIANS AND ALIENATED

THAIS. WHITLAM RESPONDED THAI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NEITHER ORAL NOR WRITTEN REPRESENTATION ABOUT INTERVIEW. HE ACKNOWLEDGED IT WAS MATTER FOR U. S. AND THAILAND TO DETERMINE WHAT ARMED FORCES SHOULD BE IN THAILAND. WHITLAM SAID, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRALIA

IS INTERESTED IN STABILITY OF AREA AND EXPRESSED BELIF

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THAT STABILITY OF AREA WOULD BE PROMOTED AS FOREIGN TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN. WHITLAM THEN REFERRED TO AUSTRALIA'S QTE CONTRIBUTION END QTE IN THIS REGARD BY WITHDRAWAL OF AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE UNITS FROM

THAILAND IN JULY 1968. HE CONCLUDED THAT THAILAND WILL CONTINUE POLICIES WHICH FOR 100 YEARS HAVE INSURED HER IDENTITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND HAVE REMAINED UNBROKEN. ( COPIES OF WHITLAM'S STATEMENT BEING SENT TO ADDRESSEES.)

RICE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

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**Review History:** RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by smithrj>  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, TH, US  
**To:** BANGKOK  
EA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005